



Stop the EPA Plan to Make Gasoline and Electricity Cost More - Vote for the Energy Tax Prevention Act!

April 5, 2011

Dear Colleague:

As we write, U.S. retail gasoline prices average nearly \$3.70 a gallon. That's 85 cents higher than this time last year. As global demand for oil slowly marches upward and political turmoil in oil-producing countries threatens supplies, we've seen the price of oil climb to and surpass the \$100/barrel range.

Certainly there are actions Congress and the Obama administration can take to help calm market volatility and greatly increase production over the next several years. These solutions are a proactive approach to reining in prices and helping ease the pain at the pump. However, what we are witnessing now is a proactive approach to raise gasoline prices from the EPA with its plan to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act.

EPA's actions will increase the cost of producing and refining crude oil in this country. This will force producers to reconsider drilling and refining in an unfriendly regulatory environment and move operations to countries that, unlike the U.S., encourage domestic production and refining. Apart from the rise in gasoline prices, these regulations will significantly lessen our domestic energy security by forcing even greater reliance on imports.

Likewise, the cost of generating electricity will increase as a result of these harmful regulations. Forcing utilities to install technologies that do not yet exist or cease bringing new generation online will constrain electricity markets and force consumers to pay higher rates.

As gasoline gets closer to the budget-crunching \$4/gallon mark, EPA's actions are beyond irresponsible, they are a direct threat to families and job creators. And as the country attempts to emerge from recession, raising the cost of gasoline and electricity will hamstring any recovery effort.

To stop the administration from moving forward with these regulations, we will vote this week on H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act. This legislation would permanently block EPA from regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act – a duty the Clean Air Act was never designed or intended to accomplish. The Energy Tax Prevention Act is part of our broad strategy to make energy more affordable, abundant, and secure. While it is unfortunate that Congress must act to prevent the federal government from raising energy prices, it is essential to our economic recovery to thwart these policies from stifling jobs and placing further pressure on household budgets.

To stop the administration's drive for higher energy prices, we urge you to vote YES on H.R. 910.

Sincerely,

Rep. Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Rep. John Sullivan
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Committee on Energy and Commerce